Atty. Docket No. YOR920010266US2
(590.071)

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Current Amended)** A binary decision diagram package comprising:

an arrangement for identifying at least two nodes in a graph;

said identifying arrangement being adapted to assign integer numbers to different nodes, whereby the use of pointers is precluded <u>and at least a partial order among the nodes is maintained</u>.

2. **(Original)** The package according to Claim 1, wherein said identifying arrangement is adapted to assign consecutive integer numbers to different nodes.

3. **(Original)** The package according to Claim 1, wherein said identifying arrangement is adapted to assign to a given node an integer number which coincides with an index in a memory array in which the node resides.

4. **(Original)** The package according to Claim 1, wherein said identifying arrangement is adapted to access an indexed node via a paging access scheme.

5. **(Original)** The package according to Claim 4, wherein said identifying arrangement is adapted to access an indexed node via a two-step paging access scheme.

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6. **(Original)** The package according to Claim 1, wherein said identifying arrangement is adapted to avoid the use of reference counts.

7. **(Original)** The package according to Claim 1, wherein the graph is a directed acyclic graph.

8. **(Current Amended)** A method of employing a binary decision diagram package, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying at least two nodes in a graph;

said identifying step comprising assigning integer numbers to different nodes, whereby the use of pointers is precluded <u>and at least a partial order among the nodes is maintained</u>.

9. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 8, wherein said assigning step comprises assigning consecutive integer numbers to different nodes.

10. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 8, wherein said assigning step comprises assigning to a given node an integer number which coincides with an index in a memory array in which the node resides.

11. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 8, wherein said identifying step comprises accessing an indexed node via a paging access scheme.

12. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 11, wherein said accessing step comprises accessing an indexed node via a two-step paging access scheme.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to Claim 7̶8, wherein said identifying step includes avoiding the use of reference counts.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to Claim 7̶8, wherein the graph is a directed acyclic graph.

15. **(Current Amended)** A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for employing a binary decision diagram package, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying at least two nodes in a graph;

said identifying step comprising assigning integer numbers to different nodes, whereby the use of pointers is precluded and at least a partial order among the nodes is maintained.

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